

symbolize the capture of Mount Suribachi and the ensuing U.S. military victory at Iwo Jima.

On February 23, 1945, a 24-year-old marine from North Dakota named Charles W. Lindberg played a key role in the events immortalized by the Iwo Jima memorial. On that day, he was part of the group that raised the first American flag to fly over Japanese soil in the Second World War. Many names from that war stand out in our memories: Normandy, Midway, the Battle of the Bulge. But perhaps none stands out like Iwo Jima.

The battle for Iwo Jima was one of the fiercest of the entire war. The American attack, planned to capture the two airfields on the island and provide a staging area for B-29 bombing runs on the Japanese home islands, was the first invasion of traditionally Japanese territory in the war. Fighting on the island lasted over a month. Over 20,000 Americans were injured and 6,825 more heroically made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

And on Iwo Jima North Dakota's Marine Cpl. Charles Lindberg made his mark on history. The indelible image of the battle for Iwo Jima is of six men raising an American flag atop the island. But those six men were not the first group of men to claim Iwo Jima for the United States. That honor belongs to a patrol that included Corporal Lindberg. The distinction between the two was one he spent a lifetime explaining.

On February 23, Corporal Lindberg took his 72-pound flame-thrower to enemy pillboxes at the base of Mount Suribachi and set out for the top with five other marines, an old pipe to be used as a flagpole, and the American flag. They gained the summit and planted the flag. Lindberg recalled that the flag's raising created such a commotion of cheers and whistles that it brought the enemy back out. That threat drew Lindberg back to battle, and so he missed the raising of the second flag, which was captured for history and recreated at the Iwo Jima memorial.

Lindberg won a Silver Star for his bravery that day, and a Purple Heart for the injury that led to his evacuation from the island less than one week later. Thirty-six members of his 40-man patrol were killed or wounded while fighting on Iwo Jima, which would rage for a full month after the flag-raising. Lindberg was fortunate enough to return home, to marry, and to live out a somewhat quieter life as an electrician.

On June 24, at the age of 83, he passed away. He was the last surviving member of the group of heroes who had the honor of raising the first American flag to fly over Japanese territory.

What is it that makes a young man from a simple town like Grand Forks, ND, risk his life the way Corporal Lindberg did on Iwo Jima? Was it the fight for freedom and liberty? Was it his patriotism and his love of country?

Was it his bravery and courage? Perhaps it was all those things. In fact, I would say that the story of Charles Lindberg presents the best of all that is American. Duty. Honor. Bravery. Sacrifice. I am proud to say that Corporal Lindberg comes from my home State of North Dakota. I am proud to call Corporal Lindberg an American.

Lindberg's passing serves as a reminder to be thankful for the heroic service of all those who answered the call to serve our country. The service of the millions of young men called to duty in World War II—and in all of our nation's wars—can never be forgotten. We are all touched in some way by heroes like Charles Lindberg, whether they are our family members, our loved ones, or our neighbors. Let us always remember the debt we owe these heroes, and always cherish the freedom they successfully fought to preserve.

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL WAYNE BUTLER

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to retired Colonel Michael Wayne Butler. On June 12, 2007, South Carolina lost a true patriot when Colonel Butler was killed while working for a contractor near Tikrit, Iraq. He is survived by his wife Joanne, sons Mike and Daniel, and grandson Da'Kori.

Colonel Butler's career in the Air Force began when he graduated from the U.S. Air Academy in 1976. Upon graduation, Colonel Butler was commissioned an aircraft maintenance officer. Colonel Butler's career in the Air Force was nothing less than distinguished. He had the opportunity to command the 50th Component Repair Squadron at Hahn AB, Germany, and later the 39th Logistics Group at Incirlik AB, Turkey. In many ways, Colonel Butler's final tour was one of his most complicated ones. Responsible for developing contingency plans and conducting air operations in a 25-nation area of responsibility covering a large swath of the globe, Colonel Butler served as CENTAF Director of Logistics at Shaw AFB in South Carolina. After 30 years of distinguished military service, earning a Bronze Star, a Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, and an Air Force Commendation Medal, Colonel Butler took a much deserved retirement from the Air Force in 2006.

Continuing his love of travel, Colonel Butler trekked around the world with his wife after retiring. Though Colonel Butler would soon be pursuing a new calling, the Butlers established a home in Rembert, SC. In December of 2006, Colonel Butler joined DynCorp International to be the senior deputy program manager for CIVPOL. His new occupation sent him to Iraq. Colonel Butler's experience in the region and his dedication to the cause of freedom was surely an asset in his new duties. On his final mission to advance our cause in Iraq, Colonel Butler was trans-

porting prisoners in a five-vehicle convoy with the U.S. military and Iraqi police when his vehicle was hit by an IED and small arms fire. Colonel Butler and one American soldier lost their lives.

Colonel Butler's love of life extended beyond the battlefield. An avid runner, Colonel Butler competed in and completed the Marine Corps Marathon. Completing the marathon once is quite an accomplishment, but Colonel Butler embraced the challenge of the marathon and completed it multiple times. I was moved to hear that his family will run the marathon in Colonel Butler's absence this year.

Colonel Butler will be buried at Arlington Cemetery on August 22 with full honors. As he departs on his final mission, his memory and legacy will not fade from the hearts and minds of all of the people he came across in his life. He will be missed but this Nation will never forget.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 2006 SLOAN AWARD WINNERS

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I congratulate the 2006 winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, which recognizes companies that have successfully used flexibility to meet both business and employee goals.

As I did last year, I wish to draw attention to the Sloan Awards because I think these companies are to be commended for their excellence in providing workplace flexibility practices which benefit both employees and employers. Achieving greater flexibility in the workplace—to maximize productivity while attracting the highest quality employees—is one of the key challenges facing American companies in the 21st century.

For 2006, businesses in the following 17 cities were eligible for recognition: Boise, ID; Chandler, AZ; Chattanooga, TN; Chicago, IL; Greater Dallas/Fort Worth, TX; Dayton, OH; Detroit, MI; Durham, NC; Long Beach, CA; Long Island, NY; New Orleans, LA; Providence, RI; Richmond, VA; Salt Lake City, UT; Seattle, WA; Tampa, FL; and Washington, DC. The Chamber of Commerce in each city hosted an interactive business forum to share research on workplace flexibility as an important component of workplace effectiveness. In these same communities, businesses applied for, and winners were selected for, the Sloan Awards through a process that included employees' views as well as employer practices.

In Boise, ID, the winners were American Geotechnics, American Red Cross of Greater Idaho, Chatterbox, DJM Sales & Marketing Inc, Healthwise, Hewlett-Packard Company, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, the Ashley Inn, and the Cat Doctor.

In Chandler, AZ, the winners were Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital, Chandler Chamber of Commerce, Civil